

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

JWB
CHLFrom the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

BABINEAU, James, W.
Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2004

PCTWRITTEN OPINION
(PCT Rule 66)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	21.07.2004
Applicant's or agent's file reference 05918-269WO1		REPLY DUE	within 3 month(s) from the above date of mailing
International application No. PCT/US 03/40287	International filing date (day/month/year) 16.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 15.12.2002 Docketed By Practice Systems Rep to WCT Oph 10-21-04 foreign art 8-20-04	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61F15/00			
Applicant VELCRO INDUSTRIES B.V. et al.		Initials: <i>[initials]</i>	

- This written opinion is the **first** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
- This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application
- The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
- The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 16.04.2005

Docketed By Billing Secretary
Due Date:
Deadline:
Initials: *[initials]*

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Okunowski, J Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits) Fernández Gomez, L Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7449
--	--



[Signature]